



John J. Barthelmes  
Commissioner

# State of New Hampshire

## Department of Safety

Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services  
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Richard A. Mason  
Director

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NH EMS Instructor / Coordinators  
NH EMS Unit Leaders

**FROM:** Eric W. Perry, Education Coordinator

**DATE:** July 23, 2007

**RE:** First Responder Transition Bridge to EMT-Basic

On behalf of the Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services thank you for your continued support of high quality EMS Education in the State of New Hampshire. Please allow this letter to serve as an update on the status of the *First Responder Transition Bridge to EMT-Basic* program.

In late 2005 The New Hampshire Trauma and Emergency Medical Services Coordinating Board established a First Responder Task Force to make recommendations about the future of New Hampshire's First Responders. After meeting, that Task Force returned its report and recommendations to the Coordinating Board. The recommendation having the largest impact on the First Responders was that to implement a "bridge" program to allow current First Responders, who had been trained with enhanced modules, to take which would certify them as Emergency Medical Technicians. That recommendation was endorsed by the Coordinating Board and sent back to the Bureau and the First Responder Task Force to create the framework and curriculum for this bridge.

Hundreds of hours of work were put into the development of this program by a staff member in our Berlin Field Office. When that office experienced a devastating fire in late April the First Responder materials, as well as everything else in the office, were completely lost. Though this was a definite setback, our staff stepped up to the plate and worked diligently to re-create the work lost. As of the date of this communication, the curriculum has been created, reviewed and in the final stages of development.

The anticipated release date is September 1, 2007. The curriculum and accompanying documents will be mailed to all licensed EMS Instructor / Coordinators in New Hampshire. Once those materials are received, Instructor / Coordinators may then file paperwork to request authorization to teach the *First Responder Transition Bridge to EMT-Basic* program. The "bridge" program will be authorized and recognized by the Bureau of EMS through September 30, 2009.

First Responders who expire September 30, 2007 should take their 12 hour refresher training program (RTP) and practical exam prior to end of the September in order to meet the NREMT expiration date and not lapse. These First Responders will then have until September 30, 2009 to take the "bridge" program, should they choose.

As always, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Eric Perry at the Bureau of EMS at (603) 271.4568 or by email at: [eperry@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:eperry@safety.state.nh.us).

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